

We claim:

1. A hydrophilic matrix formulation suitable for once-a-day administration comprising:
 - a. divalproex sodium, and;
 - b. said divalproex sodium is in admixture with a sufficient quantity of a pharmaceutically acceptable polymer, so that said formulation exhibits the following in-vitro dissolution profile, when measured in a type 2 dissolution apparatus (paddle) at 100 rpm, at a temperature of 37 ± 0.5 C, in 500ml of 0.1N HCl for 45 minutes, followed by 900ml of 0.05M phosphate buffer containing 75 mM sodium lauryl sulfate (pH5.5) for the remainder of the testing period:
 - i. no more than about 30 % of total valproate is released after 3 hours of measurement in said apparatus;
 - ii. from about 40 to about 70% of total valproate is released after 9 hours of measurement in said apparatus;
 - iii. from about 55 to about 95% of total valproate is released after 12 hour of measurement in said apparatus, and;
 - iv. not less than 85% of total valproate is released after 18 hours of measurement in said apparatus.
2. The formulation according to claim 1 in which said formulation exhibits the following in-vitro dissolution profile:
 - i. from about 15% to about 30% of total valproate is released after 3 hours of measurement in said apparatus;
 - ii. from about 40% to about 70% of total valproate is released after 9 hours of measurement in said apparatus;
 - iii. from about 55% to about 90% of total valproate is released after 12 hours of measurement in said apparatus, and;
 - iv. not less than 88% of total valproate is released after 18 hours of measurement in said apparatus.

3. The formulation according to claim 1 in which said formulation exhibits the following in-vitro dissolution profile:
 - i. from about 15% to about 27% of total valproate is released after 3 hours of measurement in said apparatus;
 - 5 ii. from about 44% to about 69% of total valproate is released after 9 hours of measurement in said apparatus;
 - 10 iii. from about 59% to about 90% of total valproate is released after 12 hours of measurement in said apparatus, and ;
 - iv. not less than 88% of total valproate is released after 18 hours of measurement in said apparatus.
4. The formulation according to claim 1 in which said divalproex sodium is present in the amount of from about 40 to about 80w/w% based upon the total weight of the formulation.
5. The formulation according to claim 3 in which said polymer is a water soluble hydrophilic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidine, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, methyl cellulose, vinyl acid copolymers, methacrylic acid copolymers, maleic anhydride/methyl vinyl ether copolymers and mixtures thereof.
6. The formulation according to claim 5 in which said divalproex sodium is present in the amount of from about 45 to about 65 w/w%, based upon the total weight of the formulation.
7. The formulation according to claim 6 in which said polymer is present in the amount of from about 20 to about 50 w/w%, based upon the total weight of the formulation.
8. The formulation according to claim 7 which further comprises one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.
- 25 9. A method for treating migraine comprising administering a formulation according to claim 1 to a patient in need thereof.
10. A method for treating epilepsy comprising administering a formulation according to claim 1 to a patient in need thereof.

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11. A method for treating bipolar disorders comprising administering a formulation according to claim 1 to a patient in need thereof.

12. The formulation according to claim 1, which when ingested orally produces a C_{max} that is statistically significantly lower than the C_{max} produced by a delayed release divalproex sodium tablet, when each is determined at steady state in a fasting population.

13. The formulation according to claim 12 which:

- produces a C_{min} that is not statistically significantly different from the C_{min} produced by said delayed release divalproex sodium tablet, when each is determined at steady state in a fasting population, and;
- 10 said formulation produces an AUC value that is equivalent to the AUC value generated by said divalproex sodium delayed release tablet, when each is determined at steady state in a fasting population.

14. A hydrophilic matrix formulation suitable for once-a-day administration comprising:

- 15 divalproex sodium, and;
- 10 said divalproex sodium is in admixture with a sufficient quantity of a pharmaceutically acceptable polymer, so that said formulation exhibits the following in-vitro dissolution profile, when measured in a type 2 dissolution apparatus (paddle) at 100 rpm, at a temperature of 37 ± 0.5 C, in 500ml of 0.1N HCl for 45 minutes; followed by 900ml of 0.05M phosphate buffer containing 75 mM sodium lauryl sulfate (pH5.5) for the remainder of the testing period:
 - from about 15% to about 27% of total valproate is released after 3 hours of measurement in said apparatus;
 - 20 from about 44% to about 69% of total valproate is released after 9 hours of measurement in said apparatus;
 - from about 59% to about 90% of total valproate is released after 12 hours of measurement in said apparatus, and;
 - 25 not less than 88% of total valproate is released after 18 hours of measurement in said apparatus.

15. The formulation according to claim 14, which when ingested orally produces a C_{max} that is statistically significantly lower than the C_{max} produced by a delayed release divalproex sodium tablet, when each is determined at steady state in a fasting population.

5 16. A hydrophilic matrix formulation suitable for once-a-day administration comprising:

- a valproate compound, and;
- said valproate compound is in admixture with a sufficient quantity of a pharmaceutically acceptable polymer, so that said formulation exhibits the following in-vitro dissolution profile, when measured in a type 2 dissolution apparatus (paddle) at 100 rpm, at a temperature of $37 \pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$, in 500ml of 0.1N HCl for 45 minutes, followed by 900ml of 0.05M phosphate buffer containing 75 mM sodium lauryl sulfate, pH5.5, for the remainder of the testing period:
 - no more than about 30 % of total valproate is released after 3 hours of measurement in said apparatus;
 - from about 40 to about 70% of total valproate is released after 9 hours of measurement in said apparatus;
 - from about 55 to about 95% of total valproate is released after 12 hour of measurement in said apparatus, and;
 - not less than 85% of total valproate is released after 18 hours of measurement in said apparatus.

15 17. The formulation according to claim 1 in which said formulation exhibits the following in-vitro dissolution pattern:

- from about 15% to about 30% of total valproate is released after 3 hours of measurement in said apparatus;
- from about 40% to about 70% of total valproate is released after 9 hours of measurement in said apparatus
- from about 55% to about 90% of total valproate is released after 12 hours of measurement in said apparatus

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iv. not less than 88% of total valproate is released after 18 hours of measurement in said apparatus.

18. The formulation according to claim 1 in which said formulation exhibits the following in-vitro dissolution pattern:

5 i. from about 15% to about 27% of total valproate is released after 3 hours of measurement in said apparatus;

ii. from about 44% to about 69% of total valproate is released after 9 hours of measurement in said apparatus

iii. from about 59% to about 90% of total valproate is released after 12 hours of measurement in said apparatus

10 iv. not less than 88% of total valproate is released after 18 hours of measurement in said apparatus.